

GEORGE T. HAMILTON.

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MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. ALLEN, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1353.]

The Committee on Claims, to which was referred Senate bill 1353, having considered the same, recommends the following amendment and, as amended, that the said bill be passed:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and substitute therefor the following:

That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of three thousand dollars to George T. Hamilton, to be paid in the following manner, to wit: The sum of fifty dollars per month to be paid to the said George T. Hamilton for sixty months: *Provided*, That should the said George T. Hamilton die before the expiration of sixty months, leaving no minor children, the said payments shall thereupon cease: *And provided*, That should the said George T. Hamilton die before the expiration of sixty months, leaving minor children, the said payments shall cease upon the majority of the youngest of the said children.

The facts set forth in the petition of George T. Hamilton, and shown by the affidavits filed in the case, are as follows: In the year A. D. 1863 George S. Hamilton, of Stanton, Del., when a boy of 16 years of age, was standing inside his mother's home, located about 100 yards south of Stanton Station, on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, when he was shot through both thighs, about midway between the hip and the knees.

The shot was fired by one of a number of United States soldiers, who were at that time on a train on the side track at Stanton Station on their way south.

No permanent injury seems to have resulted from the injury in the left leg, but in the right thigh the ball came in contact with the main nerve, clipping some of the fibres, the doctor states, and permanently injuring the nutrition of the lower limb, following which there has been a continuous series of ulcerations by such lack of nutrition, the result of the wound before mentioned.

He is permanently disabled from the effects of this wound, and has been prevented from following such occupations as would, in health,

enable him to make a living, and this disability, the doctors who have attended him say, is increasing with years, and there is no probability that he will ever recover or be able to do much work. He was unable to work for a year after the shooting, and in 1885 he was in bed for fifteen weeks, the leg swelling and discharging in a dozen places, and since that time he has not been able to do much work on account of his wound, the leg swelling and discharging at frequent intervals, causing him much suffering, and at times his life has been despaired of.

George T. Hamilton is a man of about 57 years of age, is married, and has 8 children, the oldest of whom is about 24 years of age and the youngest about 6 years.

George T. Hamilton was a track hand on the railroad at the time he was shot, and from the testimony appears all of his life to have been a sober and industrious man. He has no means of support beyond his own exertions.

In further explanation of the condition of the claimant your committee attach hereto copies of the affidavits of the attending physicians, which they ask may be taken as part of their report.

After a careful examination of the facts set forth in the petition and sworn to in the affidavits, your committee recommends the adoption and passage of the aforesaid bill as amended.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, *City and County of Philadelphia, ss:*

On this 23d day of February, in the year of our Lord 1892, personally came before me, Wm. F. Boyd, a notary public for the county and State aforesaid, George W. Hudders, M. D., who, being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: I reside at No. 2033 North Eighth street, in the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. I am a practicing physician in said city, and have been for the last fifteen years. I formerly resided in the village of Christiana, in the county of Newcastle and State of Delaware, and practiced medicine there and in the adjoining neighborhood.

I knew George T. Hamilton, of Stanton, in the State of Delaware, in the year 1863. I think it was early in the spring of that year I was called in to attend him for wounds received from a United States soldier who fired from a train at Stanton station, or such was the information I received from the family and others in regard to the matter. I found that Hamilton had been shot, the bullet passing through both his thighs about midway of the femur or thigh bone, and passing posterior of the femur, barely escaped striking the bones of both thighs. I attended Hamilton until he was able to get about again; I can not at this time recollect just how long. Hamilton was a boy, at the time I attended him for the above-mentioned wounds, of probably some 16 years. The wounds from which I found Hamilton suffering when called upon to attend him were what we term gunshot wounds, and I would say had been caused by a rifle ball. On the day on which George T. Hamilton was shot there was a good deal of firing done by soldiers from passing trains at Stanton.

G. W. HUDDERS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

WM. F. BOYD, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF DELAWARE, *Newcastle County, ss:*

On this 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1898, before me, J. Perkins Groome, notary public for the county and State aforesaid, personally came Francis L. Springer, M. D., who, being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: I am a practicing physician and reside at Newport, in the county and State aforesaid; from the year 1877 until one year ago, when I moved to Newport, Del., I resided and practiced medicine at Christiana, Del.; I have known George T. Hamilton, of Stanton,

Del., since the year 1878, and have attended him at different times since then until about one year ago. In the year 1885 I attended him for three months; during that time he was confined to his bed and suffered a great deal. His trouble comes from the right leg, which swells, breaks out, and discharges at certain periods. It breaks out between the ankle and knee and gives him much pain, and is the result of an old injury to the leg.

I have been told by Hamilton and others that he was shot through both legs, above the knee, by soldiers of the United States Army, about the year 1863, and I should say that the trouble for which I have attended him comes from such an injury. Since I attended him in 1865 he has been able to work very little, not one-third of the time. He is a sober and industrious man and works whenever he is able. I have no expectation that his leg will ever be well or that he will be able to work much more. Hamilton's condition has been worse of late years. I do not believe that he is able to work two weeks out of the year at this time, and for the last four or five years he has been able to do but little work on account of this wound. I have understood that Dr. George F. Hudders, late of Philadelphia, deceased, who formerly lived at Christiana, practiced medicine there, attended Mr. Hamilton at the time he was shot.

FRANCIS L. SPRINGER, M. D.

Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and year first above written.

J. PERKINS GROOME, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF DELAWARE, *Newcastle County, ss:*

On this 29th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1898, before me, Edward T. Price, notary public for the State of Delaware, personally comes Horace Bradley, who, being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: My name is Horace Bradley; my age is about 54 years; I am a physician, practicing medicine at Marshallton, Del.; I have resided at Marshallton for about four years; I was graduated at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in March, 1865; previous to that time I had been a medical cadet in the United States Army, serving at McKim's Hospital, Baltimore, Md., and at Chattanooga, Tenn. After graduation I was assistant surgeon in the United States Army and was surgeon in charge at Geer Hospital at Wilmington, N. C., and afterwards assistant medical director of the Department of North Carolina until July, 1865, after the close of the war.

I have attended George T. Hamilton, of Stanton, Del., as his physician for about one year. I find him suffering from the effects of a gunshot wound, the shot said to have been fired by soldiers moving through the State of Delaware under orders from the United States. The ball passed through both thighs almost midway between the hip and knee. In the right thigh it came in contact with the main nerve, clipping some of the fibers, thus permanently injuring the nutrition of the lower limb, following which there has been a continuous series of ulcerations, caused by such lack of nutrition, a direct result of the gunshot wound before spoken of. He is permanently disabled from the effects of this wound, and has been prevented from following such occupations as would in health have enabled him to make a living, and this disability will continue during his life.

I have examined the wound and find marks which were in all probability made by a bullet, as claimed by himself and others. There have been frequent ulcerations of the right leg, caused by the defective nutrition of the part heretofore spoken of, the last ulceration occurring within six months of this time and now just healed up, but in all probability other ulcerations will continue to follow each other successively from the same cause so long as he lives.

HORACE BRADLEY.

Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and year aforesaid.

EDWARD T. PRICE, *Notary Public.*

